

Application No.: 10/669,204

Attorney Docket No.: NIDSNZ00101

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1.-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended): A method for altering flow through a biological valve having an annulus, the method comprising:
transferring energy to the annulus to heat the annulus; and
cinching the annulus, wherein the cinching comprises implanting a cinching member.

12. (currently amended): The method of Claim 11, wherein the valve comprises a cardiac valve.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended): The method of Claim 11 ~~Claim 13~~, wherein the cinching member comprises a transducer.

15. (previously presented): The method of Claim 14, wherein transferring energy comprises transferring energy with the transducer.

16. (currently amended): The method of Claim 11 ~~Claim 13~~, wherein the cinching member has a first shape during a delivery to the annulus and a second shape after the delivery.

17. (currently amended): The method of Claim 11 ~~Claim 13~~, wherein the cinching member comprises a central region and two anchoring regions on opposing ends of the central region, wherein each anchoring region is configured to be anchored to opposing

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areas of tissue against or adjacent to the annulus and urge the areas of tissue towards one another[[:]].

18. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein transferring energy comprises modifying the geometry of the annulus.

19. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein transferring energy comprises transferring RF energy.

20. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein transferring energy comprises transferring microwave energy.

21. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein transferring energy comprises transferring ultrasound energy.

22. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein transferring energy comprises transferring laser energy.

23. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein transferring energy comprises using a heating element.

24. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, further comprises deploying a chemical to the annulus.

25. (previously presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein the chemical comprises aldehydes.

26. (new): A method for altering flow through a biological valve having an annulus, the method comprising:
transferring energy to the annulus to heat the annulus;
cinching the annulus; and

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deploying a chemical to the annulus.

27. (new): The method of Claim 26, wherein the chemical comprises aldehydes.